

knowledge and experience of the educational institutions of the State, possessed up-to-date information about the different educational systems abroad. A son of the soil with these qualifications should be selected and deputed to study the different educational systems prevalent in advanced countries like America, Germany and Japan, so that he might qualify himself to fill the place of the Director when that place fell vacant.

The Member next dwelt on the desirability of improving women's education in the State. Except in the case of primary schools, the system of allowing boys and girls to study together in the same institution should never be allowed. Where the strength of girl pupils did not fall short of fifty, a separate school for them should invariably be established.

Dewan's reply.—You have referred to many important matters connected with education. I cannot give you an off-hand reply. You have referred to the need for compulsory primary education, to the co-education of boys and girls in primary schools, to Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools, and to the abolition of the present parallel system of English and vernacular schools. You have also said that boys should not be allowed to select their optional subjects in Form V, and you insist on the appointment of a European English Professor in His Highness the Maha Raja's College. Government agree with you on the last point, and they are endeavouring their best to secure the services of a European Professor to teach English, but they have not succeeded so far. All your representations will receive careful consideration at the hands of Government.

114. The present system of education in Travancore, its defects and remedies.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) began by making a reference to the last Educational Conference and observed that the allegation that the non-official members who served on it were not proper representatives was unfounded. No objection was taken when the members for the Conference were selected by the Government. The main reason alleged against the selection was that the members were mostly managers of aided schools. But managers of schools were the persons largely conversant with matters educational, and were therefore the best representatives for such a conference, and the decisions arrived at at the conference were the results of mature deliberation.

Referring to the recent enhancement of school fees, the Member observed that the allegation that that enhancement was effected on the recommendation of the managers of schools at the Educational Conference was unfounded, since the managers themselves had nothing to gain by such enhancement. He also remarked that the agitation set up in certain quarters against the increase of fees was not genuine. No reform, he said, could be effected without adequate funds and the enhancement of school fees was one of the ways by which additional funds could be found for the expansion of education. Enhancement of fees was no new phenomenon and there had been no such agitation on previous occasions. At the time of Dr. Mitchell the fee of Re. 1 per mensem was suddenly raised to Rs. 3 per mensem and there was no protest whatsoever. It could, therefore, be seen that the students' strike was not really due to the enhancement of school fees.

The Member then pleaded for equal treatment being accorded to departmental and grant-in-aid schools in certain essential matters. The existence of grant-in-aid schools, he said, was a great advantage to Government. The cost per pupil in a Government school was Rs. 8, against Rs. 4 only in an aided institution. Aided school education was thus decidedly cheaper. The Government had long ago insisted on the opening of a new school, only when it was not detrimental to the interests of any existing school. That wholesome principle was not followed by the Department recently, and so a definite ruling was requested.

Speaking on the question of the medical inspection of school children, the Member said that the proposal to levy fees from boys in aided schools to meet the cost of medical inspection was unfair, and pleaded for equal treatment in respect of Government and aided schools.

Referring to the retrenchments proposed to be effected in the department, the Member expressed his disapproval of the abolition of Range Inspectorships and Assistant Inspectorships of English schools.

A special school for the deaf and dumb was a desideratum in the State. He referred to the useful work done by such an institution at Palamcottah, and requested that an institution for the deaf and dumb, similar to that institution, be established in Travancore also, and that stipends be given to the deaf and dumb that proceeded to the special school at Palamcottah.

The Member then proceeded to point out certain defects in the working of the Music Board which, as now constituted, did not work on a satisfactory basis. The Board should consist of experts and not, as at present, merely of people who knew the science of music in theory and whose only qualification was that they could appreciate music. In the Music examinations conducted at present many managed to pass in theory, but failed in the practical test. If a candidate passed in theory and failed in practice, it should be enough for him or her to appear again for the practical test. More care had also to be bestowed on the way in which the examination was conducted. In one of the recent examinations the name of a candidate who passed in the first class was omitted in the examination results first published. Such mistakes should be avoided. Representative musicians from different parts of the State should be put on the Board.

In regard to the grant of the English School Leaving Certificates, the Member observed that those candidates who were declared eligible for admission to the College were not admitted for service in the Education Department. The rule was that the pupils should have obtained five marks above the State average. That was an undesirable distinction. He had represented the same matter at the last session, but his request was not complied with. He prayed for a re-consideration of the order.

Dewan's reply.—You have referred to a number of points. That aided education is cheaper than departmental education is beyond dispute. Your suggestion in regard to the method of calculating grants need not also be disputed. In regard to new schools, you say that the old rule that no new school should be opened in close proximity to an existing school is being broken. You have not given previous notice on this subject. What strikes me at present is that distance cannot be the only matter for consideration in such cases.

In regard to medical aid, it is true that the Government order says that, in regard to children in aided schools, the managers will have to pay the medical fees. I do recognise the force of your objection that the order introduces an undesirable distinction between the children of the two sets of schools, departmental and aided, in the matter of health. I shall consider the matter further.

In regard to retrenchment, the Salaries Committee's proposals are under the consideration of Government. They are considering the matter very carefully and will issue the necessary orders shortly.

You say that it is necessary to open a deaf and dumb school here on the model of the one at Palamcottah. I am not quite sure whether a school of that type is urgently needed here. Government are giving a grant to the Palamcottah School, and, if there are any Travancore youths who want to be educated there, the Government would favourably consider the question of aiding them.

You have referred to the public examinations in Music, and the Music Board. I shall ask the Director to investigate the matter.

In regard to the English School Leaving Certificate, you raised the point last year also and a reply has already been sent to you, but I have no objection to go into the question again.

115. Grant-in-aid Vernacular Schools and their administration.

Mr. Paul Daniel M. A., L. T. (Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil) represented that the policy pursued by the Department in the administration of